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January 25, 1973
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ASD(I)

Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) (U)

Refs.: (a) National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 6, "Signals Intelligence", (U) February 17, 1972
(b) DoD Directive S-5100.20, "The National Security Agency and the Central Security Service", (U) December 23, 1971
(c) The National Security Agency/Central Security Service Organization Plan, (U) April 14, 1972 1/
(d) DoD Directive S-3115.2, "Electronics Intelligence (ELINT)", (U) February 7, 1967 (hereby cancelled)
(e) DoD Directive S-3115.4, "Communications Intelligence (COMINT)", (U) March 19, 1959 (hereby cancelled)
(f) DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.24 "TELEPHONE INTERCEPTION AND EAVESDROPPING," AUGUST 17, 1967"

I. (U) PURPOSE

This Directive assigns responsibilities, roles and missions to DoD components with regard to the SIGINT mission of the United States.

II. (U) CANCELLATION

References (d) and (e) are hereby superseded and cancelled.

III. (U) APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this Directive apply to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Joint

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Chiefs of Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency/ Central Security Service, and other Defense Agencies (herein called DoD Components).

IV. (U) DEFINITIONS

The terms applicable to this Directive are defined in enclosure 1.

V. ~~(C)~~ POLICY

A. (U) In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), the Secretary of Defense is the Executive Agent of the Government for the direction, supervision, funding, maintenance and operation of the National Security Agency (NSA)/Central Security Service (CSS) as the unified SIGINT organization of the United States. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) is the principal staff advisor and assistant to the Secretary of Defense for all matters concerning the management of intelligence resources, programs and activities of NSA/CSS and related activities.

B. ~~(C)~~ The Director, National Security Agency (DIRNSA)/ Chief, CSS will conduct all DoD SIGINT operations, including those required to support electronic warfare (EW), except when he delegates SIGINT operational tasking authority over NSA/CSS activities as provided in references (a), (b) and (c). In the case of mobile military SIGINT platforms, he shall state movement requirements through appropriate channels to the military commanders who shall retain responsibility for operational command of the vehicles.

C. (U) For systems and resources dedicated to other missions but having a SIGINT capability, the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, will provide advisory tasking which will be accepted as long as it does not interfere with the primary purpose of the resources or the mission of the commands to which they are

assigned. All such tasking will be channelled through the commander to whom the resources are assigned. Commanders so tasked will insure that all SIGINT collected is promptly provided to designated NSA/CSS activities.

D. (U) The DIRNSA/Chief, CSS will insure that the capabilities of SIGINT activities designated for wartime or contingency deployment are productively utilized during peacetime in support of appropriate SIGINT and readiness requirements.

E. (U) The DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, and other DoD components will exchange information concerning techniques, procedures, and equipment evolved as a result of their respective SIGINT and non-SIGINT research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs when the information is believed to have a potential application to both.

F. (U) Military commanders will conduct such EW operations, as necessary, to provide immediate support to tactical operations. Electronic warfare support measures (ESM) resources required for the conduct of EW will be specifically authorized by the Secretary of Defense for this purpose. SIGINT resources to support EW may be delegated by DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, as provided for in reference (c).

G. (U) ESM resources collect signals in the electromagnetic spectrum and thus are SIGINT-related. As such they will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the SIGINT Resources Committee in consonance with the procedures contained in reference (c). If the SIGINT Resources Committee finds that an ESM resource should be assigned to the Central Security Service, its finding will be coordinated with the military department concerned and other appropriate elements of DoD prior to its submission to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence).

VI. ~~(S)~~ RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Secretaries of the Military Departments will:

1. (U) Plan and program for SIGINT resources in consonance

with fiscal guidance established by the Secretary of Defense and program guidance received from DIRNSA/Chief, CSS.

2. (U) Budget for their respective SIGINT resources in consonance with programs approved by the Secretary of Defense.

3. (U) Submit their SIGINT requirements to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), simultaneously providing an information copy to NSA/CSS. (During the development phase of a requirement, and subsequent to its validation, direct coordination between the Military Departments and NSA is encouraged, keeping DIA informed of any change in status and satisfaction of the requirement.)

4. (U) Levy time-sensitive or otherwise urgent SIGINT information needs directly on NSA/CSS, simultaneously informing DIA.

5. (U) Provide military personnel to NSA/CSS in accordance with approved requirements and procedures, normally for a tour of at least 36 months. (Career program assignments of longer duration for specially qualified personnel may be arranged with the Department concerned.)

6. (U) Provide administrative and logistic support required by the Service Element Commanders of the CSS and their Service cryptologic organizations.

7. (U) Provide SIGINT facilities and resources for the conduct and support of SIGINT operations as authorized and directed by the Secretary of Defense, including reserve programs to meet emergency or wartime requirements for SIGINT resources.

8. (U) Assist NSA/CSS in conducting research and development to meet the needs of the United States for SIGINT by:

   a. Coordinating their SIGINT RDT&E requirements with DIRNSA/Chief, CSS.

   b. Accomplishing specified SIGINT RDT&E tasks within approved programs as requested by DIRNSA/Chief, CSS.

c. Fully informing DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, of any proposed ESM RDT&E programs prior to final Service program approval.

9. ~~(S)~~ Conduct those SIGINT activities, other than cryptanalysis, undertaken in support of their missions under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) No. 5 2/, where feasible, coordinate such activities with the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS or his representative. (The information derived from such activities shall be so handled as to give suitable protection to related activities and shall be passed to the NSA/CSS to the extent desired by the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, as soon as the special security requirements of the collector have been satisfied.)

10. (U) Fulfill logistic support requirements of the NSA/CSS as authorized and directed by the Secretary of Defense.

11. (U) In coordination with DIRNSA/Chief, CSS maintain a system of reporting program execution data to NSA/CSS to support SIGINT management.

B. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) will:

1. Review, as they require, the SIGINT plans and programs of the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS for adequacy and responsiveness in support of approved military plans and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate.

2. Monitor the responsiveness of the United States SIGINT system to military requirements, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

3. Submit their SIGINT requirements to DIA.

4. Coordinate, direct and supervise the operations of airborne and seaborne military SIGINT platforms in response to mission requirements stated by the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS and procedures determined by the Secretary of Defense.

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5. In accordance with prescribed procedures, keep the Secretary of Defense advised on the status of SIGINT resources, particularly those resources of which the SIGINT operational tasking authority has been delegated to military commanders.

C. ~~(C)~~ The DIRNSA/Chief, CSS responsibilities and authorities are defined in reference (b). He shall act as the principal SIGINT advisor to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In exercising SIGINT operational control over the SIGINT resources of the United States, he will also conduct such COMINT and ELINT activities as are required to support EW activities. The relative roles of the National Security Agency and the Central Security Service are delineated in reference (c).

D. (U) The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) will:

1. Validate and assign priorities for DoD SIGINT requirements, and assign them to NSA/CSS for action in accordance with prescribed procedures.

2. Review and evaluate the satisfaction of all DoD SIGINT requirements levied on NSA/CSS.

3. In collaboration with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Departments and the Unified and Specified Commands, evaluate the contribution of SIGINT, in relation to all other intelligence information, in the production of finished intelligence within the Department of Defense.

E. ~~(S)~~ Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands will:

1. (U) Exercise operational command of military airborne and seaborne SIGINT platforms in accordance with instructions issued by the JCS and in accordance with mission requirements of DIRNSA/Chief, CSS.

2. (U) Submit their SIGINT requirements to DIA, simultaneously providing an information copy to NSA/CSS. (During the development phase of a

requirement and subsequent to its validation, direct coordination between the Unified and Specified Commands and NSA is encouraged, keeping DIA informed of any changes in status and satisfaction of the requirement.)

3. (U) Levy time-sensitive or otherwise urgent SIGINT information needs directly on the NSA/CSS, simultaneously informing DIA.

4. (U) Submit requests for delegation of SIGINT operational tasking authority of SIGINT resources to the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, in accordance with reference (c).

5. (U) Assume temporary operational control (SIGINT operational tasking authority) of SIGINT resources in accordance with reference (c).

6. ~~(S)~~ Conduct those SIGINT activities, other than cryptanalysis, undertaken in support of their missions under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of NSCID No. 5; where feasible, coordinate such activities with the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, or his representative. (The information derived from such activities shall be so handled as to give suitable protection to related activities and shall be passed to the NSA/CSS to the extent desired by the DIRNSA/Chief, CSS as soon as the special security requirements of the collector have been satisfied.)

F. (U) Non-DoD Departments and Agencies:

The DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, will arrange as necessary for the conduct and support of SIGINT activities outside the Department of Defense in accordance with the provisions of reference (a).

VII. (U) EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective upon publication. Two copies of implementing instructions shall be forwarded to the

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) within 90 days.

Secretary of Defense

Enclosure - 1
1. Definitions

DEFINITIONS

Applicable to DoD Directive S-3115.7 are the following definitions:

A. (U) Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) is a category of intelligence information comprising all Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Electronics Intelligence (ELINT), and Telemetry Intelligence (TELINT).

B. (U) COMINT is technical and intelligence information derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipients. COMINT is produced by the collection and processing of foreign communications passed by electromagnetic means, with specific exceptions stated below, and by the processing of foreign encrypted communications, however transmitted. Collection comprises search, intercept, and direction finding. Processing comprises range estimation, transmitter/operator identification, signal analysis, traffic analysis, cryptanalysis, decryption, study of plain text, the fusion of these processes, and the reporting of results. COMINT shall not include:

1. Intercept and processing of unencrypted written communications, except the processing of written plain text versions of communications which have been encrypted or are intended for subsequent encryption.

2. Intercept and processing of press, propaganda and other public broadcasts, except for processing encrypted or "hidden meaning" passages in such broadcasts.

3. Oral and wire interceptions conducted under DoD Directive 5200.24. (Reference f.)

4. Censorship.

C. (U) ELINT is technical and intelligence information derived from foreign, non-communications, electromagnetic radiations emanating from other than atomic detonation or radioactive sources. ELINT is produced by the collection (observation and recording), and the processing for subsequent intelligence purposes of that information.

*D. (U) TELINT is technical and intelligence information derived from * the intercept, processing, and analysis of foreign telemetry.

E. (U) SIGINT resources comprise units/activities and organizational * elements engaged in the conduct of SIGINT (COMINT, ELINT * or TELINT) activities.

F. (U) SIGINT operational control is the authoritative direction of SIGINT activities, including tasking and allocation of effort, and the authoritative prescription of those uniform techniques and standards by which SIGINT information is collected, processed and reported.

G. (U) SIGINT operational tasking is the authoritative operational direction of and direct levying of SIGINT requirements by a military commander on designated SIGINT resources. These requirements are directive, irrespective of other priorities and conditioned only by the capability of those resources to produce such information. Operational tasking includes authority to deploy and redeploy all or part of the SIGINT resources for which operational tasking authority has been delegated.

H. (U) SIGINT advisory tasking is tasking proposed by DIRNSA/Chief, CSS for systems and resources dedicated to missions other than SIGINT, but possessing a SIGINT collection capability. Advisory tasking will be accepted by the commanders controlling such resources as long as the tasking does not interfere with the primary purpose of the resource or the mission of the commands to which they are assigned. When SIGINT advisory tasking is proposed, DIRNSA/Chief, CSS, will provide technical guidance, as required.

I. (U) Electronic warfare (EW) is military action involving the use of electromagnetic energy to determine, exploit, reduce, or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum and action which retains friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum. There are three divisions within EW.

1. Electronic warfare support measures (ESM) are that division of EW involving actions taken to search for, intercept, locate and immediately identify radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition. Thus, ESM provide a source of information required for immediate action involving ECM, ECCM, avoidance, targeting, and other tactical employment of forces.

2. Electronic countermeasures (ECM) are that division of EW involving actions taken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum. ECM include:

   a. Electronic jamming - The deliberate radiation, re-radiation, or reflection of electromagnetic energy with the object of impairing the use of electronic devices, equipment, or systems being used by an enemy.

   b. Electronic deception - The deliberate radiation, re-radiation, alteration, absorption, or reflection of electromagnetic energy in a manner intended to mislead an enemy in the interpretation or use of information received by his electronic systems. There are two categories of electronic deception:

      (1) Manipulative - The alteration or simulation of friendly electromagnetic radiations to accomplish deception.

      (2) Imitative - The introduction of radiations into enemy channels which imitate his own emissions.

3. Electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCM) are that division of EW involving actions taken to insure friendly effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum despite the enemy's use of EW.